

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /073 W

----- 107559

R 121119Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 029

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5689

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, TH

SUBJ: LAO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN THAILAND

1. THE NUMBER OF LAO REPRESENTATIVES IN THAILAND IS DECLINING AS BOTH THE CONSUL IN CHIANG MAI, KIENTHONG KEORAJAYONGSAY, AND HIS VICE-CONSUL, KHAMPHETH SYHANATH, AS WELL AS THE CULTURAL COUNSELOR IN BANGKOK, KAO OUTSAMA, AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE APPLIED TO GO TO THE U.S. AS REFUGEES. (PLEASE PROTECT THIS INFORMATION AS IT IS NOT YET CERTAIN WHEN THEY ARE INFORMING THE PDRL) THIS WILL LEAVE THE LAO CONSULATE IN CHIANG MAI WITHOUT ANY OFFICER AND THE EMBASSY IN BANGKOK WITH SIX OR SEVEN.

2. DURING MARCH 11 CALL ON CONSUL KIENTHONG IN CHIANG MAI, HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS TOWARD KEEPING THE CONSULATE OPEN, SINCE THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO COMMUNICATION BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND HIS POST. HE HAD HEARD IN DECEMBER THAT IT WOULD BE CLOSED AND LATER THAT HE AND THE LAO CHIEFS OF MISSION FROM AROUND THE WORLD WOULD BE RECALLED TO ATTEND SEMINARS, BUT NOTHING HAS HAPPENDED. HE OPINED THAT IF THE PDRL DOES DECIDE TO

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MAINTAIN THE CONSULATE, HIS SUCCESSOR SHOULD BE WATCHED

VERY CLOSELY, AS HE IS LIKELY TO BE A PL WHO WILL WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES IN THE BORDER PROVINCES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO BANGKOK, BOTH KIETHONG AND KHAMPHETH SAID SEPARATELY THAT THEY THOUGHT CHANCES WERE EXCELLENT THAT CHARGE KATH DITTAVONG WILL LEAVE HIS POST TO BECOME A REFUGEE FOLLOWING THEIR OWN DEPARTURES. AMONG THE VARIOUS SIGNS THEY CITED WAS THE FACT THAT HIS WIFE HAS JUST COLLECTED THEIR CHILDREN WHO REMAINED IN LAOS AND BROUGHT THEM TO BANGKOK. IT WAS KATH WHO URGED THAT THE THREE OFFICIALS SEEK REFUGE IN THE U.S. RATHER THAN FRANCE.

4. THERE IS STILL NO WORD ABOUT A POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR OUAN SNITH, WHO WENT TO FRANCE IN LATE 1975. KIETHONG SAID HE FORESAW NO DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT UNTIL AFTER THE THAI ELECTIONS APRIL 4. THE PDRL WILL CHOOSE THE SUCCESSOR FOR THIS IMPORTANT POST VERY CAREFULLY, SENDING A RIGHTIST IF THERE IS A CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT AND SOMEONE MORE "PROGRESSIVE" IF THERE IS A LIBERAL ONE. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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